

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 633. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to provide certain consumer protections if a depository institution engages in the sale of nondeposit investment products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. DOLE):

S. 634. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a financial incentive for States to reduce expenditures under the Medicaid Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. NUNN, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 635. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide uniformity in the criteria and procedures for retiring general and flag officers of the Armed Forces of the United States in the highest grade in which served, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. PRESSLER):

S. 636. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to issue new term permits for grazing on National Forest System lands to replace previously issued term grazing permits that have expired, soon will expire, or are waived to the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 637. A bill to remove barriers to interracial and interethnic adoptions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (by request):

S. 638. A bill to authorize appropriations for United States insular areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. JOHNSTON):

S. 639. A bill to provide for the disposition of locatable minerals on Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. REID, Mr. BOND, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 640. A bill to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. PELL, Mr. DODD, Mr. COATS, and Mr. SIMON):

S. 641. A bill to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 642. A bill to provide for demonstration projects in six States to establish or improve a system of assured minimum child support payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 643. A bill to assist in implementing the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. Res. 95. A resolution making minority party appointments to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. JEFFORDS and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 632. A bill to create a national child custody database, to clarify the exclusive continuing jurisdiction provisions of the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE CHILD CUSTODY REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am this morning going to introduce a bill that I am hopeful the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate will take into consideration rather quickly and report something to the U.S. Senate akin to what I am going to talk about for the next few minutes.

There is much talk about seeing to it that we insist that parents be responsible and that, where there are custody situations in a split household, divorce or otherwise, the obligations to pay child support get enforced across the land. The President speaks of it, everyone speaks of it, in more or less the notion of the need for parental responsibility and the fact that responsible parents alleviate some of the Government's expenditures if they were paying their legally obligated payments to their children.

And so today I want to discuss briefly where we are with reference to that and what we ought to do.

Let me talk now about the bill itself.

Over the past few months, we in Congress have spoken a great deal about the need to get our Nation's fiscal house in order. Although we may disagree on exactly how we should get there, the debate on this matter has demonstrated at least one matter on which we all agree. This central point of agreement is about the future, and what responsibilities and burdens we will be handing to generations yet to come. Concern for the future of our children and grandchildren must be the defining issue. I believe this our foremost responsibility, and I know there are many women and men in this body who share this commitment.

The need to provide for the future of our children and, indeed, the Nation, however, does not hinge solely on fiscal policy. The responsibilities we hold for the children of America span all aspects of life and incorporate many elements of the law. Children hold a special status under the law. We recognize

that without a responsible parent or guardian, children are at the mercy of society. In the absence of measures to protect them, they are our most vulnerable and needy citizens. In such a case, the law becomes their primary protector and provider, and often their last source of relief in many instances in this country. I am addressing these issues today because I rise to introduce a bill that seeks to further support children in this country, and which will assist in protecting them when their best interests are not being served.

THE CHILD CUSTODY REFORM ACT OF 1995

In 1980, Congress passed the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act—the PKPA. This bill sought to end the common situation where feuding parents, whether divorced, separated, estranged, or otherwise, used their children as pawns in their personal vendettas against each other. Often, this would take the form of one parent kidnapping the child and moving to another State. Once in the other State, the parent could petition that State court in order to obtain a new custody ruling. In the event that a different ruling was handed down, the legal battles began, with the child being used as leverage in a vicious parental battle that often played out over many years. The children thrown into the middle of these situations obviously suffered, some think they suffered irreparable harm, and Congress had to step in to bring this practice to a halt. The PKPA did much to alleviate this situation, and solidified the statutes that protect children involved in custody disputes. Several years of this law in actual practice, however, have demonstrated that some gaps exist in this legislation, and there remain a few loopholes through which this situation can continue.

So today I rise to introduce the Child Custody Reform Act of 1995. We have worked diligently on this with various entities in our country and with the American Bar Association because we have one of these typical situations in the law that is spoken of when you go to law school as conflicts of interest, or conflict law. So this bill is going to put a cap on some of these inconsistencies and to further help resolve a troubling situation that continues to this day.

The Child Custody Reform Act that I am introducing amends the PKPA in two ways: First, this act would clarify the language of the PKPA so that future jurisdictional disputes are eliminated altogether. And second, this act would establish a national child custody registry so that the courts and officers of the court would have quick and accurate access to information regarding the status of any child in the Nation for whom a custody decree has been issued.

It would not pry into anyone's life. It would just take a matter of court record and produce that in a manner that would be available interstate, so that in a legal battle in State X with two children involved, the court can